DC

9

The Joker

THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING

ROSENBERG
DI GIANDOMENICO
RAFFAELE
FRANCAVILLA
FAJARDO JR.

15+
TEEN PLUS

THE FLASH

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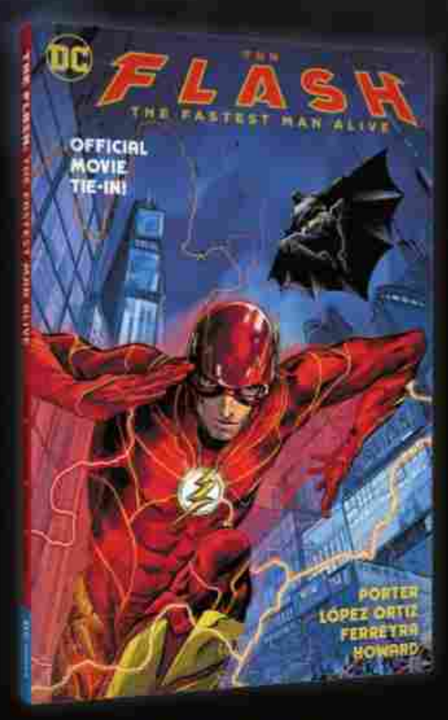
DC

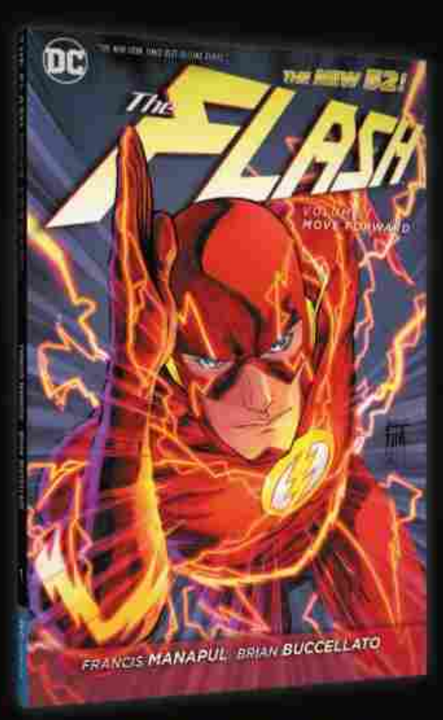
GET UP TO SPEED WITH THESE MUST-READ GRAPHIC NOVELS!

IN THEATERS JUNE 16



THE FLASH: THE FASTEST MAN ALIVE

FLASHPOINT



THE FLASH VOL. 1: MOVE FORWARD

Under Gotham City.

THIS HAS BEEN GOING ON LONG ENOUGH, CLOWN. YOU'RE TRAPPED DOWN HERE.

YOU CAN'T FIND YOUR WAY OUT. YOU'RE BLEEDING OUT. IT'S A SLOW WAY TO DIE.

TELL ME WHERE YOU ARE, AND I'LL MAKE IT QUICK. YOU CAN'T HIDE MUCH LONGER.

I'M RIGHT HERE, WAYLON.

They caught a man breaking into the zoo in order to have sex with a crocodile the other night.

They just let him go though. Turns out it's not that unusual. A lot of men suffer from reptile dysfunction.

BEFORE YOU PUT ME OUT OF MY MISERY, WILL YOU GRANT A POOR CLOWN HIS DYING WISH?

HEH. WHAT DO YOU WANT?

TWO THINGS. FIRST, TELL ME WHY YOU HURT SOLOMON GRUNDY.

HE WAS IN MY TERRITORY. I TOLD HIM BEFORE, BUT I GUESS HE DIDN'T LEARN IT.

SO YOU *DID* SPEAK WITH HIM.

DID IT DAWN ON YOU, IN YOUR INFINITE WISDOM AS A CROCODILE MAN WHO LIVES IN HUMAN WASTE, THAT HE MIGHT NOT BE ALL THERE MENTALLY?

WHY DO YOU CARE? HE YOUR FRIEND NOW?

YOU SOUND JEALOUS.

240 Miles Outside Gotham.

PARDON ME, GARÇON. MAY I PLEASE HAVE THE KEY TO THE CRAPPER?

IT'S OUT OF...

...ORDER. ARE YOU...?

LEX LUTHOR? YES.

YES I AM.

YOU CAN GET A FREE LARGE COFFEE WITH THIS PURCHASE, MISTER.

DON'T TOUCH THE STUFF. IT MAKES ME FEEL INSANE.

BUT IF YOU'RE DOING FAVORS, CAN I USE YOUR PHONE? I HAVE TO CALL MY MOTHER AND TELL HER I'M ON MY WAY HOME.

UMM... SORRY.

PHONE IS FOR EMPLOYEES ONLY.

WHAT YOU'RE DOING IS CALLED **AT-RISK BEHAVIOR.**

COMING FROM THE GUY WHO'S BEEN BEGGING BATMAN TO MURDER HIM FOR YEARS.

WHAT WAS THAT?

I SAID, **YOU GET MY COFFEE?**

...THEY WERE SOLD OUT.

THEY WERE SOLD OUT OF **COFFEE?**

...YUP.

FRESH COFFEE. ICED COFFEE. BOTTLED COFFEE. ALL OF IT?

...UH-HUH.

SO IF I WALK IN THERE RIGHT NOW THERE WON'T BE **ANY** COFFEE IN THE BUILDING?

IF YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME YOU CAN GO LOOK FOR YOURSELF, DRURY.

KABOOM

COME ON, MAN. AGAIN?!

WE GOTTA GO. CAN WE PLEASE DUMP THE DEAD GUY HERE? HE'S STARTING TO SMELL.

NO.

AWOOO

AWOO

GOOD NEWS IS THE VERY RUDE YOUNG MAN AT THE GAS STATION SAID WE'RE ONLY A FEW HUNDRED MILES FROM GOTHAM.

WHAT'S THE PLAN WHEN WE GET THERE?

WE'LL SEE IF ANYONE DECIDED TO THROW ME A WELCOME PARTY.

WHERE ARE WE?

AAAAHH!

YOU SAID THERE WERE TWO THINGS. WHAT'S THE SECOND ONE BEFORE I TEAR YOU APART?

AND?

BEFORE, YOU CALLED *ME* THE IMPOSTOR. YOU IMPLIED I'M NOT THE *REAL* JOKER.

AND I WANT YOU TO TAKE IT BACK.

HA HA HA HAHA HA--

HAHAHAHAHA!

YOU'RE FUNNIER THAN THE REAL GUY.

BUT THAT'S WHAT ALL THIS IS? YOU AND THE GUY IN L.A. IN SOME SORT OF POWER STRUGGLE FOR THE NAME? TRYING TO GET ALL US MOBSTERS AND MONSTERS TO PICK SIDES?

YES, MAYBE. THERE'S A WAR COMING.

HERE'S THE THING, CLOWN...

NOBODY LIKES YOU. MAYBE HARLEY USED TO. SHE'S GOOD PEOPLE. BUT WHEN SHE WAS DONE WITH YOU, YOU DIDN'T HAVE NOBODY.

BUT IT'S NOT THAT NOBODY LIKES YOU. NOBODY ***KNOWS*** YOU. NEVER HAVE. AND NOBODY CARES. ASK ANYONE IN GOTHAM WHO THE JOKER IS AND THEY'LL SAY A FREAK IN MAKEUP WHO SCARES PEOPLE. THAT'S IT.

SO MAYBE THAT GUY STOLE YOUR THING AND PUT YOU DOWN HERE.

OR MAYBE YOU TRIED TO STEAL HIS AND SCREWED IT ALL UP. DON'T MATTER.

YOU ASK ME WHO THE REAL JOKER IS, AND MY ANSWER IS WHO GIVES A @!#$?

THE REAL ONE WILL BE WHICHEVER ONE SURVIVES YOUR LITTLE WAR...

...AND THAT AIN'T GONNA BE YOU!

GRAH

THIS IS GOING TO COME AS A SHOCK...

ZZZAAAP

THE WEST SIDE OF GOTHAM.

TWANG

POLICE

POLICE

WE'RE UNDER ATTACK!

GET READY.

BACK IT UP!

BACK IT UP!

THIS IS CAR 161. WE'RE BEING AMBUSHED! NEED IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE AT--

161

127

GCPD

IT'S BLOCKED! TAKE THE ALLEY! GET US THE HELL OUTTA HERE!

SOMEONE REALLY WANTS YOU DEAD, SCUMBAG.

I DON'T THINK THAT'S WHAT THIS IS.

BLAM

POP

HANG ON!

CHINATOWN. GOTHAM.

OOH, OOH. TELL ME WHEN THIS PART'S OVER.

EXCUSE ME?

I hate this guy.

IS THIS SEAT TAKEN?

IT'S YUH-YUH-YOU.

IT I-I-IS INDEED, VENTRILOQUIST.

YOU MADE A BIG MISTAKE COMING HERE, FAKE CLOWN. NOW YOU DIE.

I DON'T THINK SO, ***FAKE PERSON.*** BECAUSE IF YOU SHOOT ME...

Getting threatened by a puppet is the most humiliating thing that has ever happened to me.

And I've been drinking rat juice in the sewer for weeks.

...MY FRIEND HERE WILL RIP YOUR FRIEND'S HEAD OFF.

WHAT ARE WE WATCHING?

IT'S, UH... ***BEAT THE DEVIL.*** IT'S QUITE GOOD BUT A LITTLE--

WHADDAYA WANT, FUNNY MAN?

WHOA. WHO SHOVED THEIR FIST UP YOUR @#$, BUDDY? I CAME HERE BECAUSE WE'VE ALWAYS LIKED EACH OTHER.

NO WE DON'T.

WELL, NO. BUT YOU CAN HELP ME. AND I LIKE THAT.

WHY WOULD I HELP A GUM LIKE YOU? GOOD WAY TO GET MYSELF KILLED. THE REAL CLOWN IS COMING HOME AND HE'S COMING FOR YOU.

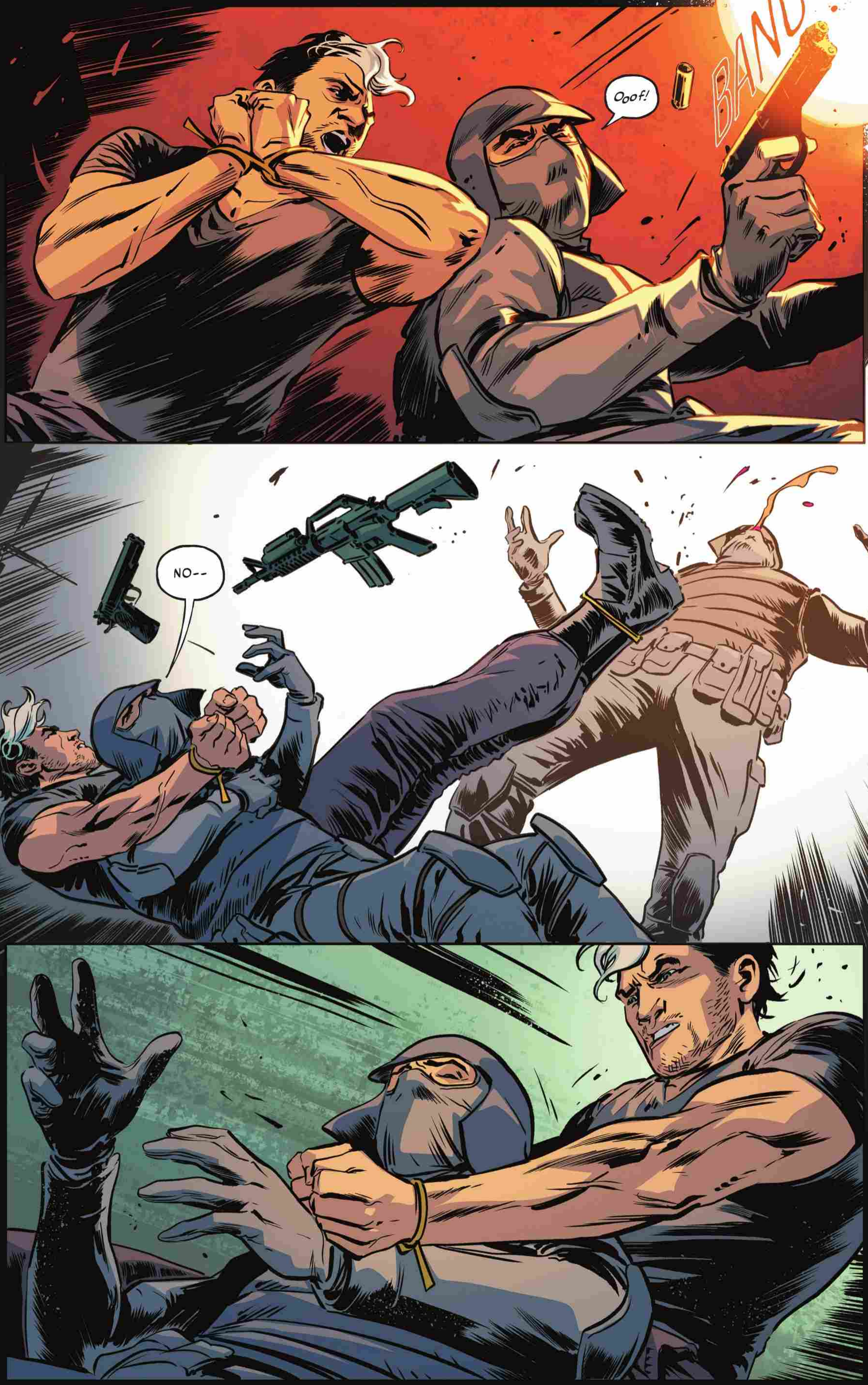
I KNOW, PINOCCHIO. THAT'S WHY I NEED AN ARMY. AND YOU'RE GOING TO HELP ME.

Uhhhn...

THIS IS THE GOTHAM FIRE DEPARTMENT. ANYONE ALIVE IN THERE?

WE'RE COMING IN. IF YOU CAN HEAR ME, MOVE AWAY FROM THE DOOR.

THAT AIN'T THE GFD. LIGHT UP WHOEVER COMES THROUGH THAT DOOR.


Ooof!
BANG
NO--

HIYA LOVER BOY.

I HOPE I'M NOT INTERRUPTING.

HI, ROSE.

LET'S GET YOU OUT OF HERE.

IF I BEAT UP ANY MORE OF GOTHAM'S FINEST THEY'LL MAKE ME AN HONORARY BATPERSON.

AND NEITHER OF US WANTS THAT.

I HAVE A NICE SPOT NEARBY WHERE YOU CAN LAY LOW AND LICK YOUR WOUNDS. OR I CAN.

SOUNDS NICE, BUT I'VE GOT WORK TO DO.

I *KNEW* YOU'D SAY THAT. THE CUTE BATGIRL OWES ME TWENTY DOLLARS. WHAT'S HER REAL NAME AGAIN?

I'M NOT TELLING YOU THAT.

Three Hours Later.
The Docks.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO ANSWER A DOOR?

BIG BUILDING.

THAT'S A GOOD POINT. KNOCK AGAIN ANYWAY.

BAM BAM

AH, YOU MADE IT...OH MY. ARE YOU...ARE YOU OKAY?

NEVER BEEN BETTER.

DID YOU GET THE WORD OUT THAT I'M LOOKING FOR SOLDIERS?

OF COURSE WE DID.

EVERYONE WHO ANSWERED THE CALL IS RIGHT THROUGH HERE.

WHAT AN IMPRESSIVE LINEUP.

I MUST SAY I'M IMPRESSED, CLAYFACE. IT'S NICE TO KNOW SO MANY PEOPLE IN THIS TOWN ARE STILL LOYAL TO ME AFTER I'VE BEEN AWAY FOR SO LONG.

THEY'RE NOT LOYAL TO YOU. THEY'RE LOYAL TO THE MONEY YOU'RE OFFERING.

SPEAKING OF, I DID MY JOB. ***AGAIN.*** NOW PAY ME WHAT YOU OWE SO I CAN BE ON MY MERRY WAY.

WHAT'S THE RUSH? WE ALL FINISH THIS LITTLE JOB TOGETHER AND THEN EVERYONE GETS THEIR MONEY.

THAT WASN'T THE DEAL, JOKER.

I ALREADY BEEN SPRAYED WITH ACID, PUSHED OUT A BUILDING, AND SHOT IN THE HEAD FOR YOU.

I'M DONE.

NOW, NOW, MY DIRTY FRIEND. YOU KNOW THE RULES. YOU ARE EITHER WITH ME ***AND MY PEOPLE...***

...OR YOU'RE AGAINST US. TAKE A MOMENT TO DECIDE.

WHAT THE @#$& IS THIS?!

YOU ASKED ME TO PUT YOUR NAME ON THE STREETS. SEE WHO WANTED TO WORK FOR YOU. THIS IS IT.

HOW OLD ARE YOU?

43.

I SAID HOW OLD ARE YOU, NOT WHAT YEAR WERE YOU BORN.

WHY DO YOU WANT TO WORK FOR ME?

CLOWNS ARE MAD COOL, YO.

WELL, OF COURSE.

THIS ISN'T *JACKANAPES!*

YES, ABOUT THAT.

WE WEREN'T SURE IF THAT WAS THE NAME OF A PERSON YOU KNOW OR AN ACTUAL GORILLA OR JUST WHAT YOU CALL GORILLAS IN GENERAL...

SO YOU JUST STOLE THE FIRST GORILLA YOU COULD FIND?

UMM... YES.

OH, OKAY.

I BELIEVE IT WAS THE GREAT LEADER KERMIT THE FROG WHO SAID, "YOU GO TO WAR WITH THE ARMY YOU HAVE."

We're going to die.

WE'RE GOING TO FIGHT AND WE'RE GOING TO *WIN!*

WITH THAT IN MIND, IT IS TIME...

WE'RE GOING TO FIND THE MAN WHO CLAIMS TO BE ME AND WE'RE GOING TO KILL HIM.

THE JOKER: THE MAN WHO STOPPED LAUGHING

MATTHEW ROSENBERG WRITER
CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO ARTIST ROMULO FAJARDO JR. COLORS
TOM NAPOLITANO LETTERS CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO COVER
FRANCESCO MATTINA, IVAN TAO, CLAY MANN & TOMEU MOREY VARIANT COVERS
BEN ABERNATHY EDITOR

THE COUNT OF CHAOS HAS RETURNED!

ALONG WITH HIS TRUSTY SIDEKICKS--JACKANAPES AND GAGGY--

THE JOKER

HAS DECIDED TO LAUNCH HIS NEWEST SCHEME! HE IS GOING TO PAINT THE SPRANG BRIDGE GREEN! WHICH, HONESTLY, DOESN'T REALLY SEEM LIKE A BIG DEAL. BUT ALONG COMES ANOTHER SO-CALLED **GOOD GUY** CALLED **BATGIRL** TO RUIN HIS PLANS ANYWAY.

PUT YOUR HANDS UP!

I... CAN'T...DO... THAT...

IT'S A LOVELY VIEW OF THE CITY FROM UP HERE. I WONDER WHY THIS STUNNING CREATURE WANTS TO SHOW IT TO ME. IT COULDN'T BE BECAUSE SHE HAS ROMANTIC FEELING FOR ME, COULD IT?*

*EDITOR'S NOTE: NO.

I'M JUST IMPRESSED SHE CAN HOLD ME UP THIS LONG.

A CLOWN IS BORN!

STORY: MATTHEW ROSENBERG
ART: FRANCESCO FRANCAVILLA
LETTERING: TOM NAPOLITANO
EDITING: BEN ABERNATHY

FRAN CAVIL 4F.23

45 MINUTES LATER...

TALK TO ME, SMALLEY.

NOT MUCH TO REPORT YET, COMMISSIONER. HE JUST FELL.

POLICE DO NOT CROSS POLICE DO NOT CRO

DIVERS ARE ON THE SCENE, BUT THEY HAVEN'T RECOVERED THE BODY YET. BUT, YA KNOW, NOBODY IS SURVIVING THAT FALL.

HE IS.

YOU WANT TO TELL ME WHAT HAPPENED HERE, BATGIRL?

IT WAS A BAD ANGLE. THE ROPE SLIPPED. I DIDN'T MEAN TO KILL HIM.

YOU KNOW AS WELL AS I DO THAT IT TAKES MORE THAN THAT TO KILL HIM.

I SAW HIM HIT THE WATER. HE'S DEAD.

CUT HER LOOSE.

COMMISSIONER?

NO BODY, NO CRIME. LOCK UP THE SIDEKICK, SEND THE GORILLA TO THE ZOO, AND CUT HER LOOSE.

THE FOLLOWING WEEKS...

GOTHAM CENTRAL BANK

CAMERAS WERE KNOCKED OUT AND HE LEFT NO WITNESSES, BUT OBVIOUSLY THIS WAS MR. FREEZE.

OR *HE* WANTS US TO THINK THAT...

I'M NOT LYING! I WORK FOR TWO-FACE, MAN.

WHERE IS THE JOKER?!

ISN'T HE DEAD?!

LET THE PEOPLE GO, JOKER! YOU AND I CAN TALK ONE-ON-ONE.

WHOA! WHOA! I'M NOT THE JOKER, BRO!

GCPD

GOTHAM CITY POLI

I DIDN'T SEE THE STOP SIGN! I SWEAR!

"ICE CR

WHO DO YOU WORK FOR?!

SAY HIS NAME!

A FEW CHAOTIC DAYS LATER AT GOTHAM GENERAL...

MOR

A COUPLE FISHERMEN FOUND HIM.

46 BROKEN BONES. FRACTURED SKULL. BROKEN BACK. BURST SPLEEN AND KIDNEY. ALL FROM THE IMPACT.

BUT WE FOUND FLUID IN THE LUNGS. HE WAS ALIVE WHEN HE WENT IN. I'M PUTTING THE JOKER'S OFFICIAL ***CAUSE OF DEATH*** AS DROWNING.

HE'S NOT DEAD.

I HOPE YOU'RE WRONG, BECAUSE I TOOK ALL HIS ORGANS OUT, JIM.

THIS MAN IS NOT THE JOKER.

I PROMISE IT IS.

NO. FIND OUT WHO THAT JOHN DOE ON YOUR TABLE IS. I'VE GOT TO GET BACK OUT THERE.

IT APPEARS THE JOKER HAS FINALLY STRUCK AGAIN.

THE NEXT NIGHT, AT THE MAYOR'S OFFICE...

YOU WANTED TO SEE ME, MR. MAYOR?

YEAH, TAKE A SEAT, JIM. SORRY FOR THE LATE HOUR. THIS CITY...

I'LL CUT TO THE CHASE. I'VE BEEN HEARING SOME DISTURBING THINGS.

THE JOKER STUFF?

EXACTLY.

AH HELL, JIM. ARE YOU DRINKING AGAIN?

NO! I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CATCH HIM. IF YOU CAN AUTHORIZE THE BUDGET FOR A TASK FORCE--

HE'S DEAD!

HE ISN'T.

I KNOW IT.

I CAN FEEL IT.

YOU'RE FORCING MY HAND HERE.

I'M GOING TO NEED YOU TO DROP THIS JOKER WITCH HUNT OF YOURS OR...

OR WHAT?

OR I'M GOING TO NEED YOUR RESIGNATION LETTER ON MY DESK MONDAY MORNING, JIM.

I'M SORRY.

WHY WAIT?

HERE YOU GO.

IF HE LETS THAT DAMN LION NEAR ME AGAIN, I'M GONNA PUT MY SIZE 28 SHOE UP HIS @%#.

A WEEK LATER...

CAN I TALK TO YOU FELLAS FOR A MINUTE?

THIS GUY AGAIN?

WE GOTTA GET READY FOR THE NEXT SHOW, BUDDY. WHY DON'T YOU BUY A TICKET LIKE EVERYONE ELSE?

I JUST WANT TO ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT PEOPLE LOOKING TO HIRE CLOWNS--

PISS OFF, YA CREEPY OLD RED-NOSE CHASER.

HAHAHA!

HEY! I KNOW YOU.

N-NO YOU DON'T!

GET BACK HERE!

I NEED TO FIND HIM, GAGGY! I NEED TO STOP YOUR BOSS!

HE'S DEAD. THEY KILLED HIM.

STAY BACK!

BANG

BANG BANG

IF I WANT TO FIND HIM, IT'S NOT ENOUGH TO JUST ASK PEOPLE...

I HAVE TO TRY TO GET INSIDE HIS HEAD... I HAVE TO THINK LIKE HIM!

GOOD EVENING, LADIES AND GERMS!

AND BOY OH BOY DO I HAVE A JOKE FOR YOU.

HAHAHAHAHA!

FRAN CAVIL 4AF.23

tHe eNd

MODERN MASTERS RETURN, AND A NEW START FOR WALLY WEST BEGINS!

THE FLASH #800

Written by JEREMY ADAMS • GEOFF JOHNS • MARK WAID
JOSHUA WILLIAMSON • SIMON SPURRIER

Art by FERNANDO PASARIN & OCLAIR ALBERT • SCOTT KOLINS
TODD NAUCK • CARMINE DI GIANDOMENICO • MIKE DEODATO JR.

Cover by TAURIN CLARKE

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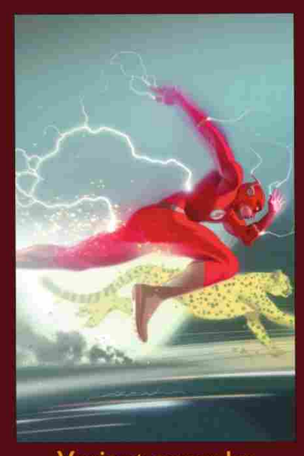
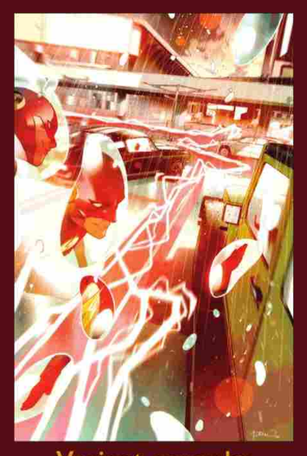
CELEBRATE 800 ISSUES OF THE SCARLET SPEEDSTER WITH THESE DYNAMIC VARIANT COVERS!

Variant cover by Michael Cho

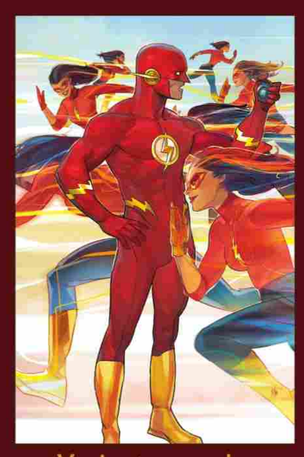


Variant cover by Jeff Dékal

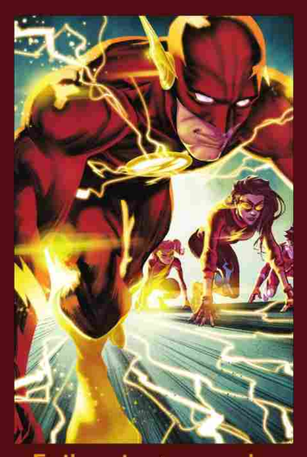


Variant cover by Simone Di Meo

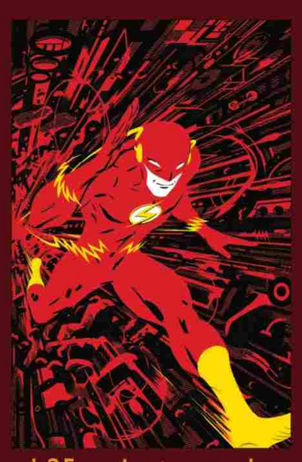
Variant cover by David Nakayama



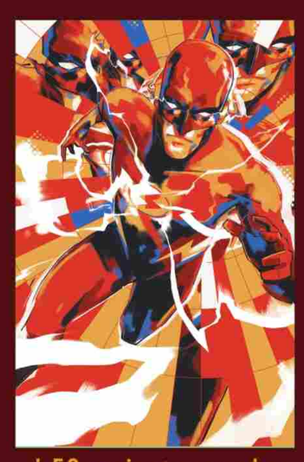
Variant cover by Otto Schmidt



Foil variant cover by Francis Manapul



1:25 variant cover by Javier Rodríguez

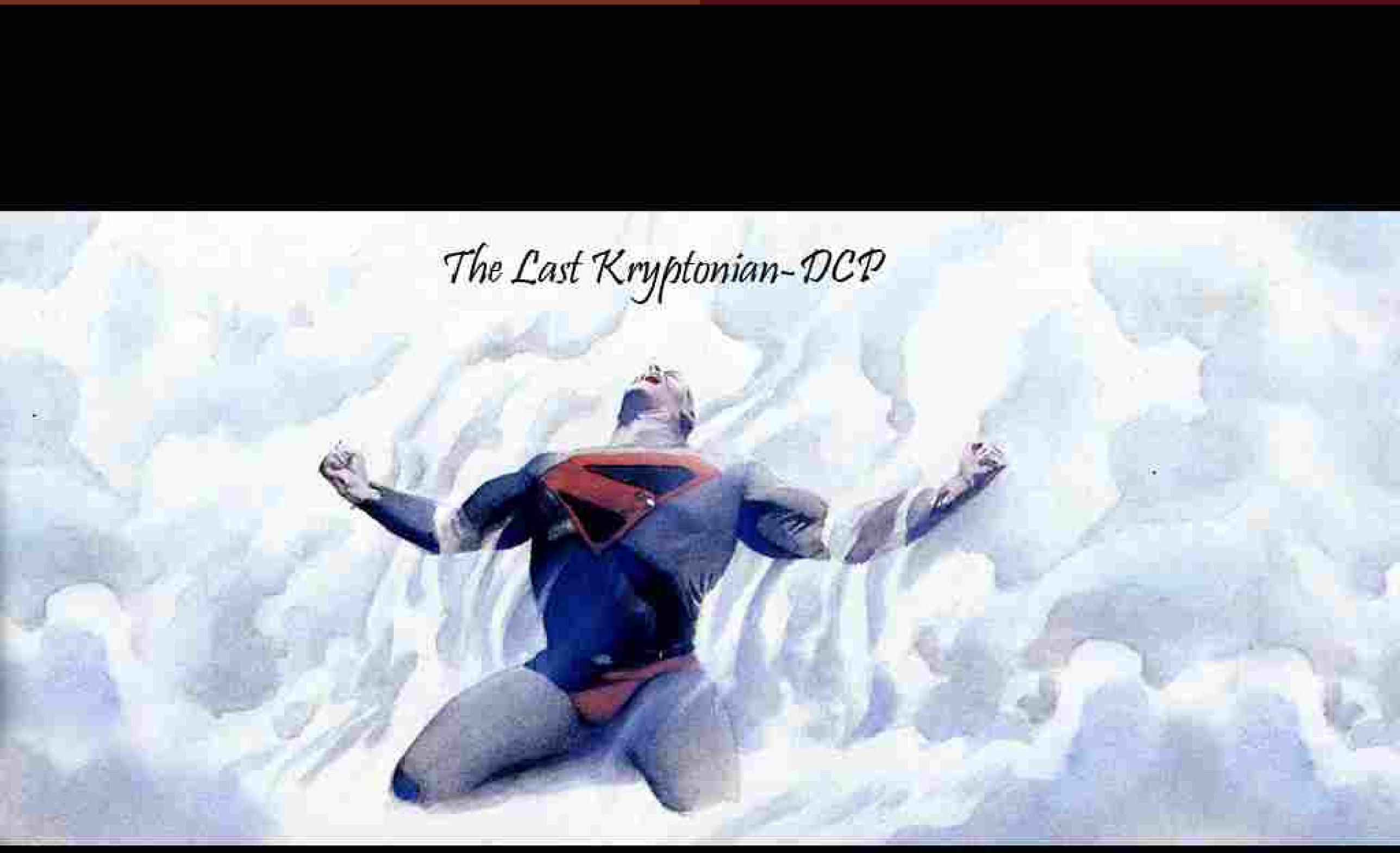


1:50 variant cover by Matt Taylor

The Flash movie variant cover by Jonboy Meyers

A landmark oversize anniversary issue **June**

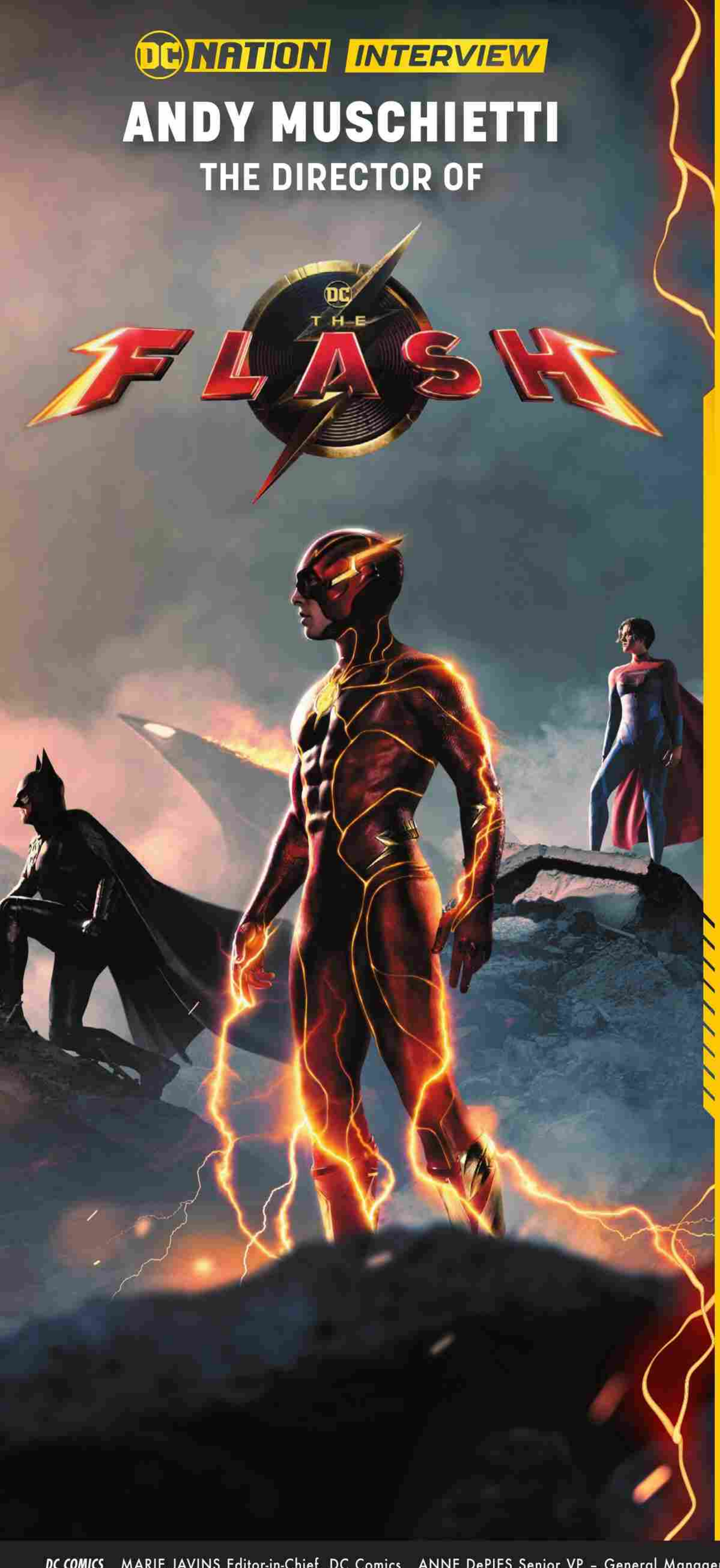
The Last Kryptonian-DCP



DC NATION INTERVIEW

ANDY MUSCHIETTI

THE DIRECTOR OF



How would you describe *The Flash*?

The Flash is a thrill ride. It's full of exciting twists but ultimately relates to human emotions. It's a huge spectacle as well as a very compelling drama and comedy. It's a lot of fun!

What is the emotional core at the center of this film?

The Flash is about family and loss. It centers in on making peace with the things you can't change, which is the underlying message of the film. It has a lot to do with the human struggle in terms of having something we would like to change from our past. The time-travel in this film is a metaphor for this. What if you had the ability to literally fix things by traveling back to the past? The fact that this was also based on the *Flashpoint* comic series was exciting to me as well—even if it's a looser adaptation, it has a seed of it.

What was it like working with multiple Bat-Men in the film?

What's exciting about this is that Ben Affleck and Michael Keaton have played Bruce Wayne before and they each had different approaches to the character and tone. I think in the case of Michael Keaton's interpretation, there's a sarcastic sense of humor that is tied to Bruce Wayne's coping mechanism. He has a very dark side, but there's also a lightness to him and that's what I found remarkable about his performance. Also, for Wayne Manor it is almost like a cathedral. There's this combination of stunningly beautiful buildings surrounded by decay and grime. It's sort of how Bruce sees the city. It used to be great, but has now been taken over by really toxic elements.

How does Supergirl fit into the film?

One of the twists of this adventure is that Superman is supposed to have landed in Siberia and a group of mercenaries found him. Bruce discovers an asteroid that fell in Russia and Barry believes Superman must be there. What they find is Supergirl, which is very consistent with the existence of infinite timelines where some things are exactly the same and others are widely divergent. There are inevitable intersections, but some things are very different, like this one.

THE FLASH

IN THEATERS JUNE 16!

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